

extended through a voice vote in the year 2001.

I think it should be emphasized that, basically, our trade relationship with these four nations is more complementary than it is competitive. That's a crucial issue. And if you exclude oil and oil products, our trade balance, our relationship, is essentially balanced in the range of 10- to \$11 billion that we export and they export, if you exclude oil, which is not covered by the ATPA.

The Andean countries are a steadily growing market for U.S. goods, and that meant there was an increase, a rather substantial one, in 2005 over 2004.

Let me touch briefly on issues that have been discussed regarding the ATPA. First, apparel. The Andean Trade Preference Act requires the use of U.S. yarns in fabrics, so it isn't a one-way street. And it's somewhat technical, but if you include, if you look at the source of the fabric, essentially the U.S. has made clear that we're not going to be left out in the cold.

In terms of crops, whether they're fruit or vegetable crops, the trade is far more seasonal. In that sense, the trade is far more complementary than it is competitive. And so it's been of mutual interest to have this Andean Trade Preference Act. And that's why it was passed originally with broad support. It was extended with broad support. There was controversy last time because it was tied to TPA, and it essentially gave different treatment to Bolivia and Ecuador that this bill does not do.

So it's also, I think, because of the complementarity of this agreement that it has had broad support in this country, and that's true in good parts of the management ranks as well as the labor ranks.

There's been reference here to drugs, and that's been a mixed picture. But I think there is evidence that the ATPA, which was originally passed as part of a drug eradication strategy, has had some positive impact in several countries, much less so I think in Colombia than in Bolivia and Peru.

If this is not renewed, I think it would be mutually disadvantageous. I think, because of the mutuality of this agreement, the way it's worked out, that we should pass it.

And I close by emphasizing we're talking today about the renewal, or I should say the extension, of the ATPA for 8 months. We're not talking about free trade agreements. I strongly urge approval of this 8-month extension.

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of controlling time, I'd like to yield the balance of my time to Mr. HERGER from California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POMEROY). Without objection, the gentleman from California will control the balance of the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from

Illinois (Mr. WELLER), a member of the Ways and Means Committee and a very active member of the Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in the strong bipartisan support for this legislation which is critical to our need to continue working to reduce poverty, to create jobs and to strengthen democracy.

Today this House has an opportunity to continue moving forward by extending the Andean trade preferences for Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia. It's only a short-term extension, 8 months, but it moves forward.

Just like the Caribbean Basin Initiative, these preferences create jobs, reduce poverty and also build capacity in nations that previously were left out. The Andean preferences offer many who have been previously left out of the opportunity to participate in free enterprise as well as the export marketplace.

I think of examples of communities who benefit. I think of the Gatazo-Zambrano community in Chimborazo, Ecuador, 400 indigenous families now being lifted out of poverty because they are now exporting broccoli and produce to the U.S. export market.

I think of the thousands of women engaged in flower production, as well as the processing of flowers in Colombia, involved in that industry, dependent on these preferences. And if they went out of business, China would take over the flower business.

There's almost 2 million jobs dependent in the Andean region on these Andean preferences which we created to lift people out of poverty. If you care about democracy in Latin America, you should vote "yes." If you want to increase and expand markets for U.S. products, you should also vote "yes" because we in the United States benefit from the Andean trade preferences.

U.S. workers and businesses benefit, farmers; U.S. cotton exports to Peru and Colombia totaled \$110 million in 2006, almost double that of 2001. U.S. yarn and fabric exports to Peru and Colombia more than doubled between 2002 and 2006.

And I would note that when we import garments from the Andean region benefiting from the Andean trade preferences, the components are largely from inputs manufactured in the United States. The Andean trade preferences are win/win for both.

It's important to remember they're temporary. We have good trade agreements with Peru and Colombia. We also need to move forward on them. And I urge a bipartisan bill today.

Mr. RANGEL. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), an outstanding member on our committee.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, is the gentleman from New York willing to engage in a brief colloquy?

Mr. RANGEL. I'd be glad to.

Mr. McDERMOTT. We appreciate the legislation that you've put before us

today. The Andean Trade Preference Promotion Act continues to enjoy broad bipartisan support, and I believe the program is needed because we have a responsibility to ensure that our market, the largest in the world, remains open to the products from developing nations.

ATPA is a program that is helping to reduce poverty and strengthen our economic ties with our hemisphere, but it really is only one scheme of many. The generalized system of preferences is also a vital tool we use to fight global poverty and better engage with developing countries.

As you know, the duty-free treatment GSP provides to imports coming from developing nations like India and Brazil is at risk of being eliminated by the Bush administration. In the case of India, the tariffs the Bush administration will propose on Indian jewelry will cause the loss of 300,000 jobs, and that would weaken our strategic alliance with an important ally. In this case, what's bad for India is also bad for the United States.

Now, in the coming weeks and months, I hope that we can work together to ensure that any GSP benefits aren't revoked for arbitrary reasons that would have a negative outcome in developing countries. And I hope that you would be willing to listen to those kind of proposals.

Mr. RANGEL. Let me thank my dear friend from Washington and indicate that I share your concern. At the end of the day, America must have a trade policy that helps workers here at home and provides opportunities for workers overseas. As the Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, I can assure you that I will work with you and others to be sure that we can improve our trade policy as it relates to developing countries.

In the case of GSP and the benefits the administration may propose to eliminate, let me make it abundantly clear that on our watch we're going to expand opportunities to the developing world and not curtail them.

I'm pleased to know that you're working on some innovative ways to improve our trading ties with Africa and Least Developed Nations. Let it be clear to you, the Congress and everyone else that if the administration proposes to impose tariffs on products coming from poor countries, and that such tariffs serve no development purpose, I will be working with you to move toward legislation to prevent that from happening.

And let me add this, that your constant concern about making America look like it's a country for freedom and opportunity and providing trade with these nations has been indicated by your leadership in the African growth and opportunity bill, the Caribbean Basin Initiative, and I hope to continue to work with you to bring opportunities for people in developing countries and make our country all that she can be.